

The OSCILLATOR

Volume 29 Issue 11
November 2006

Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club

The Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club is a special service club related to ARRL: The National Association for Amateur Radio. We seek to advance the Amateur Radio Service through:

- ⇒ Education and Training of new and licensed amateurs
- ⇒ Public Service and Emergency communication
- ⇒ Hobby nets, contests and meetings
- ⇒ Social events

Membership is available to anyone interested in amateur radio. A license is not required.

KK7TN PARAGRAPHS

Don Stettler KK7TN

Recently I took an interesting phone call from a ham that lives south of Sacramento. She told me her children were moving to the Portland area and she planned to follow. Since she was immersed in ham radio she wanted my opinion

on the best place to look for a home in the Portland Metro area as it would relate to being able to pursue the hobby. She wanted to live where there was easy access to repeaters, where she could put up antennas, and be close to where a radio club meets. How would you answer her question?

As you might expect I answered with my bias that for ham radio it doesn't get much better than Portland's Westside and Washington County. We are blessed with many repeaters, many of which can be accessed with an HT. And, of course, OTVARC provides an opportunity to mix socially and for public service with other hams. Further there is the opportunity to serve with the very active Washington County ARES. I did have to admit that putting up antennas could be problematic where CC and Rs restrict their use.

See PARAGRAPHS, Page 4

By-Law Change Proposed

A proposal to amend the By-Laws of Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club is being submitted to the membership for action. The recommended change will be submitted with the annual election ballot later this month.

The author, Everett Curry W6ABM has submitted the proposed change to the Board of Directors as required. The Board is passing it on to the membership for action.

AUTHOR'S STATEMENT

I propose amending the By-laws of our club to change the minimum membership requirement for Life Member status from two to ten years. I propose allowing current members within five years of meeting the present requirement to be grandfathered at the current required membership years. Further, I propose allowing current members between six to ten years of meeting the present requirement to purchase needed years to meet the new requirement at the rate of \$20.00 times the number of years needed to reach Life Membership status.

Life Membership is a special status within our club. Persons
See BY-LAWS, Page 4

CLUB MEETING

WEDNESDAY, November 8th

We meet on the second Wednesday of the month at the **Beaverton Elks' Lodge, 3500 SW 104th Ave, Beaverton.**

Our program for November 8th will be offered by **Robert Crocker WN7O**, Chairman, Washington County Amateur Radio Corporation. Robert will introduce us to this organization which serves as a tool for expanding amateur radio emergency service.

Guests are welcome. Come early to enjoy a no-host dinner from the Elks' Buffet, with a new spaghetti dinner available.

See you on November 8th. Bring a non-member ham as your guest to any OTVARC session.

Happy November Birthday

1	Donald L. Stettler	KK7TN
2	Helen Turner	W7OLF
2	Steven Ward	KE7EIQ
3	Ardyce Moore	AA7SW
5	Gerald Davis	KJ7OM
6	Patrick Colton	KC7TOA
7	Byron Windhorst	KD7NWV
8	Paul Schaff	W7BBG
8	John Core	KX7YT
8	Dave Haupt	W8NF
11	Kathy Clawson	KC7USE
16	Geoffrey Bunza	AD7JP
21	Jeffrey A. Freedman	K7JF
23	Naomi Ballard	KD7JZW
26	Andy Ziemann	KE7AUB
27	Mary Berg	N7TRW
28	Linda Sutton	KC7YTD

TRAVELERS'

Travelers' campout for November will be held November 17-19 at Wandering Spirit RV Park in Grand Ronde. Advance reservations allow our group to be located together; call Geno at 503.614.0563.

All club members are invited to the *Annual Thanksgiving Potluck*, whether camping or not. Let Geno know you're coming so he can have sufficient meat prepared. Bring a vegetable, salad or dessert to share. The potluck is held on Saturday evening, November 18th. At 5:30 pm.

The Wandering Spirit RV Park is located at 28800 Salmon River Hwy, Grand Ronde -- on Oregon Highway 18, 1 1/2 miles west of Spirit Mountain Casino. The Casino runs shuttle buses between the park and the casino for those who wish to challenge the house.

General information on Travelers' events may be obtained from Betty N7REX at n7rex@teleport.com or by phone, 503.642.1284..

ARRL NOVEMBER PHONE SWEEPSTAKES

The annual November Sweepstakes take place this month. CW Sweeps occur November 4 - 6th, with the Phone Sweeps on November 18- 20th. The object of this operating event is for stations in the United States and Canada (including territories and possessions) to exchange QSO information with as many other US and Canadian stations as possible on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meter bands.

The contest period begins 2100 UTC Saturday [1:00 pm PST Saturday], ends 0300 UTC Monday [7:00 pm Monday PST]. Stations may operate 24-hours of the 30-hour period, with 30-minute or longer breaks.

W7OTV will be on-the-air for this Contest. The newly formed OTVARC Contest Special Interest Group will operate using our call sign. Our station will compete as a Multi-Operator station "M" class. Ron O'Connor will coordinate our club effort.

More information on this contest may be found at:
www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2006/novss.html

LUNCH BUNCH

Join in our
Annual Thanksgiving Dinner

November 18th
5:30 PM

Wandering Spirit RV Park
28800 Salmon River Hwy
[Oregon Highway 18]
Grand Ronde

W7OTV ON SHOUTCAST

The club repeater can now be heard via the Internet! Search www.shoutcast.com for W7OTV.

The stream is up 24/7 at 48 kbps with a max of 32 listeners. Listening only, no transmit capability.

STATS FOR 16 SEP 06 to 16 OCT 06

Geographic location	Visitors	Play duration
United States	62	17:50:50
United Kingdom	5	1:28:51
Netherlands	5	0:33:22
Germany	4	0:54:26
Thailand	1	0:02:53
Canada	2	0:03:03
Austria	2	0:20:30
Japan	2	0:03:23
Finland	2	0:02:18
Taiwan	2	0:03:30
Australia	1	0:53:57
Poland	2	0:19:10
Peru	1	0:04:42
France	1	0:03:41
Russian Federation	1	0:01:31
Dominican Republic	1	0:05:30
Czech Republic	1	0:02:33
Indonesia	1	0:03:31
Portugal	1	0:01:00
New Zealand	1	0:31:29
Spain	1	0:01:15
Total	124	23:31:25

73. Frank, K2NCC@arrl.net

Board Meeting Summary August 23 and September 27

The Board of Directors met on Wednesday, August 23 and September 27 at TVF&R Station 67. Don Stettler KK7TN presided.

Treasurer's Reports were presented by Pat Colton in the absence of Alvin Carlson.

Ron O'Connor reported on the North American QSO Party event. 113 contacts were made, 5,989 points earned. We had 53 multipliers, 32 states, and 3 DX contacts. 8 operators and one logger participated from the club.

Ron O'Connor reported completion of the 2005 Sea-Pac audit. A complete report was delivered to the Board. The committee was thanked for their service and retired. Members were O'Connor, Rick Banton, and Joel Simmons.

Wes Allen reported that the Chahalem Mountain Repeater site was being deactivated by new owners of the site. This is the 146.90 MHz machine used by Washington County ARES, and was originally the OTVARC club machine. Future location is currently unknown. Wes reported on progress to identify interference to the 146.96 MHz Goat Mountain machine from the Seattle area.

Everett Curry reported on proposed revisions of the Life Member status as requested by the board. By consensus the board determined that changes to the requirement for Life status would be phased in over five years with a provision for those affected in the 5-10 year period to purchase Life status with payment of \$20 per year until they reach age 70. Everett was directed to propose language for placing this before members in the same time frame as the upcoming election cycle. The change would make Life status available to all members who reach age 70 AND have ten years of membership within the club. Provision for purchase of Life status would continue to be available.

The Election Committee was appointed. Pat Colson represents the board, John Anderson and Claire Johnson are remaining required members. They may seek others to work with them.

Will Sheffield reported SEA-PAC '06 financials through August. The event generated \$4,000 for OTVARC and ended spending \$74 more than received. Start up funds for SEA-PAC '07 are set aside.

Board meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of the month, generally at TVF&R Station 67. Members are welcome.

WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION



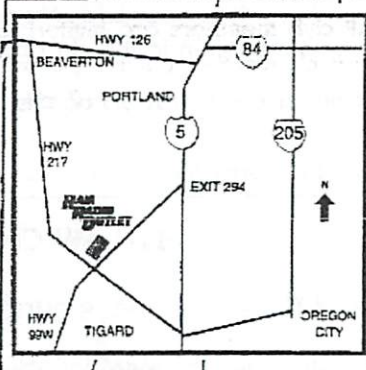
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HOLIDAY DINNER SET

The Holiday Dinner has been set for Wednesday, December 13th at Beaverton Elks' Club. Naomi Ballard has again agreed to serve as coordinator for the event.

The dinner is a no-host event. The club will provide \$300 for prizes and up to \$75 for decoration and other costs associated with the event. Meals will be served at \$15.00 per person, with each registrant receiving a ticket in the prize drawing. Additional prize tickets may be purchased at the event.

The December meet, including election results, will follow the dinner. Members unable to attend the dinner are welcome at the meeting.



J. Steven Sanders
Certified General Appraiser
Sanders Appraisal, PC
503-320-4100
sandersappraisal@comcast.net
Orengo Station, Hillsboro, OR 97124
Fax: 503-547-8200

BY-LAWS, from Page 1

holding this distinction should have a special relationship to the club. I believe ten years of membership gives a person a sense of belonging that is appropriate to Life Member status. Further, the financial impact upon the club when short-term members become Life Members is lessened when they have been in the club for a decade or more.

I ask for your support of this by-law change.

Everett Curry W6ABM

BY-LAW CHANGE

[**BOLD** item replaces current language]

SECTION 4. LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Life membership is available to any full or family member after two (2) **[ten (10)]** years of active paid membership, Members age fifty (50) or less will be required to make a payment which is twenty (20) times full annual dues then-assessed by the club. Members age fifty one (51) or greater will be required to make a payment based upon the following schedule to include a multiplier of the full annual dues then assessed by the club:

Members age seventy (70) and over, who have satisfied the two-year **[ten-year]** active membership requirement above, shall be granted life membership status without further consideration. **[Members age seventy (70) and over may satisfy the ten-year membership requirement by payment of dues at the current annual rate for the number of years under the full ten year requirement.]** The

Treasurer shall withdraw and transfer all life members' dues on or before January 10 of each year. Any authorized withdrawal in excess of one year's original assessed dues must be re-deposited (without interest! into the life membership account within ninety (90) days of withdrawal. Life membership shall not be transferable and dues, or any portion collected therein shall not be refundable to that member. However, should a member fail to pay the required installments as Payment for life membership may be made in a single lump sum or may be paid in four equal installments within a year of tendering the first payment. The club Treasurer shall establish a separate savings account for the proceeds from life membership dues with a separate ledger entry for each life member. No more than one year's original assessed dues for each life member may be withdrawn from the account in anyone fiscal year, without a majority vote of the Board. The Treasurer shall withdraw and transfer all life members' dues on or before January 10 of each year. Any authorized withdrawal in excess of one year's original assessed dues must be re-deposited (without interest! into the life membership account within ninety (90) days of withdrawal. Life membership shall not be transferable and dues, or any portion collected therein shall not be refundable to that member. However, should a member fail to pay the required installments as specified above, that portion received shall be credited to that member as future annual dues. In the event of the club's dissolution, any remaining funds in the life membership account shall be distributed to that member on a prorated basis according to the

See By-Law Change Page 5

Paragraphs, from Page 1

My discussions with this ham reminded me of how important our club is. It takes all of us to keep OTVARC a vital part of our community so hams like the woman I spoke to will have a club to join that will meet their needs.

Happy Thanksgiving and 73, Don

Remember that you receive from an organization only what you put into it.



This month I give thanks for the OTVARC club & all the fine members in it. Have a magical Thanksgiving Holiday and thanks for buying Oregon Trail Lip Balms.

OREGON TRAIL LIP BALM

Created by: Maureen O'Rourke KA7LAP
mcorourke@netzero.com

Available at Hanks & Hillsboro Pharmacies.

VE EXAM SESSION

Our most recent session was on October 7th. We served nine applicants and awarded four Technician, one Technician Plus HF, and one General license. Three of our applicants will study more and try again. One of them took the Technician on a whim after looking over her husband's shoulder while he was doing his last-minute cramming. She almost passed.

Thanks go to VEs Everett, W6ABM; Rich, KD7GIE; and Andy, KE7AUB. Our next session will be Saturday November 4th. Our team welcomes its newest VE: Will, N7THL, who was recently accredited by ARRL.

Our thanks to Carl WS7L for his leadership. Carl Clawson WS7L is our OTVARC VE team leader.

Our sessions are at 1:00 pm. monthly on the first Saturday. The Club offers exams at Ronler Acres Fire Station, 4455 NW 229th Ave, Hillsboro, across from Hillsboro Stadium. Pre-register for exams by contacting Carl, WS7L, at ws7l@arrrl.net or by phone at 503.629.5796.

Check the OTVARC Web www.otvarc.org/ve for more information.

There are other exam opportunities in the area. Email to w7otv@arrrl.net for locations and times.

By-Law Change, from Page 4

ledger balance of the respective member's account. Upon the maturity (i.e. twentieth year of life membership) of each member's savings account, any and all funds in that member's account shall be transferred to the club's general operating account. All life members prior to December 31, 1987 shall be grandfathered and shall continue to enjoy the benefits of the status conferred upon them. [Members who are age 65 or older in 2007 may continue to achieve Life Member status following the older two-year rule. Members who are age 60-64 in the 2007 may make payment of \$20.00 times the number of years until they reach age 70 to achieve Life Member status.]

20-Meter Rotatable Dipole Antenna

A weekend trip last May to the beach at Manzanita with a church men's group included a chance to try portable HF operating. As a group we brought along enough parts to assemble several types of wire antennas, but the rental location did not easily allow using them. We were finally successful using a small multi-band portable ground mounted vertical.

At the time I thought that I had about everything needed to satisfy my HF band operating needs. I was wrong, portable operating can be a blast! Using the experience gained over that weekend I decided to find a simple, easy way to transport and erect a non-wire, horizontally polarized portable antenna. The resulting project would then be the first step in putting together my own portable HF station.

Browsing thru QST ads and Ham Equipment catalogs showed several possibilities including the "Buddipole" system and two "Hamstick" type elements with a center coax connector and bracket to allow mounting on a mast.

A quick trip to Ham Radio Outlet and I was ready to experiment. Here's what it took:

- Two 20-meter Pro-Am brand mobile "whips."
- Pro-Am brand dipole adapter DAK-AD.
- 50-feet of coax (on hand).
- Two ten foot mast sections (on hand).

The dipole adapter easily bolted to the mast, the 20-meter base elements screwed onto the adapter and the adjustable "whip" sections followed, adjusted to recommended initial length per the enclosed instruction sheet.

Within 10-minutes the antenna was assembled, the coax was attached and run thru the patio door, across the family room to the antenna switch in the shack. About 5-minutes later the mast was raised, partially supported by bungee cords and our patio deck railing.

Tuning up and down the band and listening while switching between the new antenna and a wire dipole looked promising. Slightly lower "S" meter readings, but lower background noise as well.

Without access to an antenna analyzer, RF output
See Rotatable Dipole, Page 6

Rotatable Dipole, from Page 5

power was turned down and the transceiver was switched to CW mode to test SWR. The test initially showed very high SWR so the mast was raised and lowered several times to adjust the "whip" element lengths looking for a better match. Finally a slight SWR dip was seen at the bottom of the band. Increasing an antenna's resonant frequency requires shortening the elements so the dip gave some idea of how to proceed.

At some point I lost track of the antenna switch position, accidentally leaving it turned to the wire dipole position. As a result the wire dipoles SWR was being measured while the new antenna was repeatedly lowered, adjusted and raised again for testing, without result! With the switch set to the right position, things went much better. Final SWR readings were nearly 1:1 at the low end of the band and less than 2.5:1 at the high end of the band. A little "tweaking" with the transceiver's tuner and all was well.

This new 20-meter rotatable dipole hasn't gone "portable" yet, but did a great job on a 30-foot mast as one of three antennas used by the OTVARC Contest Group during the last North American QSO Party. It even has some directivity and can easily be rotated by manually turning the support mast. I hope to add several additional bands as time and finances allow. All it will take is two elements for each additional new band and a small wrench. If you're looking for an easy to assemble and deploy portable or base station antenna for your favorite band, give this idea a try.

Ron O'Connor KD7VIK

[Ron is an active member of the club, coordinates the Contest Special Interest Group, and is a frequent contributor to The OSCILLATOR]

Bits and Pieces...

An interesting observation came in from Randy Crews, W7TJ of Spokane, Washington. He's been going through his old paper logs, and entering the data into his logging program. Randy writes, "What is interesting is how productive 80 and especially 160 Meters are the year before, the year of, and especially the year following the bottom of the sunspot cycle. DXers should really take full advantage of the unique quiet portion of cycle 23's end, and the beginning of cycle 24 spending extra time on the low bands for needed countries, etc."

Good timely information, as we head into the solar minimum over the next six to eight months.

- DX Letter

Ending a protracted waiting period, the FCC's Report and Order (R&O) in the so-called "omnibus" Amateur Radio proceeding, WT Docket 04-140, was adopted October 4 and released October 10. In it, the FCC adopted nearly all of the changes it had put forth in its 2004 Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) in the proceeding. The R&O the FCC released this week does not include action on the Commission's proposal to eliminate the Morse code requirement for all license classes. A Report and Order in that proceeding, WT Docket 05-235, is pending. ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, expressed the League's gratitude to the FCC for acting this week in the wide-ranging proceeding.

The ARRL wants the FCC to throw its support behind a Draft Proposal seeking to have World Radiocommunication Conference 2007 (WRC-07) delegates consider a worldwide, secondary Amateur Radio allocation from 5260 kHz to 5410 kHz. The ARRL included the request in comments it filed October 27 in IB Docket 04-286, "Recommendations approved by the Advisory Committee for the 2007 World Radiocommunication Conference."

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KC5ZTF To Service Hubble

NASA says astronaut and astronomer John Grunsfeld, KC5ZTF, will be a mission specialist on the space agency's final mission to extend and improve the Hubble Space Telescope's capabilities through 2013. NASA Administrator Michael Griffin announced plans for the fifth servicing mission to Hubble October 31. NASA had said previously that it would make no further Hubble missions.

The space shuttle flight is tentatively targeted for launch sometime during 2008. It will mark Grunsfeld's third trip to Hubble and his fifth spaceflight. The Chicago native, who holds a doctorate in physics from the University of Chicago, performed five spacewalks to service the telescope in 1999 and 2002.

Veteran astronaut Scott Altman will command the mission to Hubble, while Navy Reserve Capt Gregory Johnson will serve as pilot. In addition to Grunsfeld, mission specialists will include veteran spacewalker Michael Massimino and first-time space fliers Andrew Feustel, Michael Good and Megan McArthur.

NASA projects the Hubble servicing mission will require an 11-day flight and five separate spacewalks.

Amateur Radio volunteers under the ARES and the RACES banners assisted the American Red Cross response to California's Esperanza Fire, some 90 miles east of Los Angeles. "We are very proud of all of our Amateur Radio operators who were called in to assist not only with communications but other needed areas," ARRL Orange Section Manager Carl Gardenias, WU6D, said. The fire is now 100-percent contained.

DC POWER

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Wes Allen, K7WWG President
665 SW 167th Ave. 503-531-4081
Beaverton, Oregon 97006

HAMFESTS & CONVENTIONS

17 February 2007

Salem Hamfair - Rickreall

Salem Repeater Association
www.qsl.net/w7sra/
Talk-In: 146.86; 186.2
Denis Miller, WC7M
4802 Carriage Ct. NE
Salem, OR 97301
503-507-6523
wc7m@arrl.net

10 March 2007

Electronics Fleamarket

Mike & Key ARC
www.mikeandkey.org/flea.htm
Talk-In: 146.82/22 (PL 103.5)
Michael Dinkelman, N7WA
22222 148th Avenue SE
Kent, WA 98042
425-867-4797
mwdink@eskimo.com

27 - 29 April 2007

International DX Convention

Northern California DX Club
www.dxconvention.org
John Eisenberg, K6YP
25 Parsons Way
Los Altos, CA 94022
650-941-7426
650-941-7426
k6yp@arrl.net

1 - 3 June 2007

SEA-PAC

Northwestern Division Convention

Oregon Tualatin Valley ARC
www.seapac.org
Talk-In: 146.660
C. Wayne Schuler, AI9Q
16414 NE 21st Avenue
Vancouver, WA 98684
Phone: 360-892-5580
Fax: 360-892-5580
Email: ai9q@arrl.net

www.seapac.org
NORTHWESTERN DIVISION ARRL CONVENTION
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Editor: Everett W6ABM w6abm@arrl.net

~~41 and Mary Burg
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CLUB MEETING
NOVEMBER 8TH